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William Benjamin Goldsmith.

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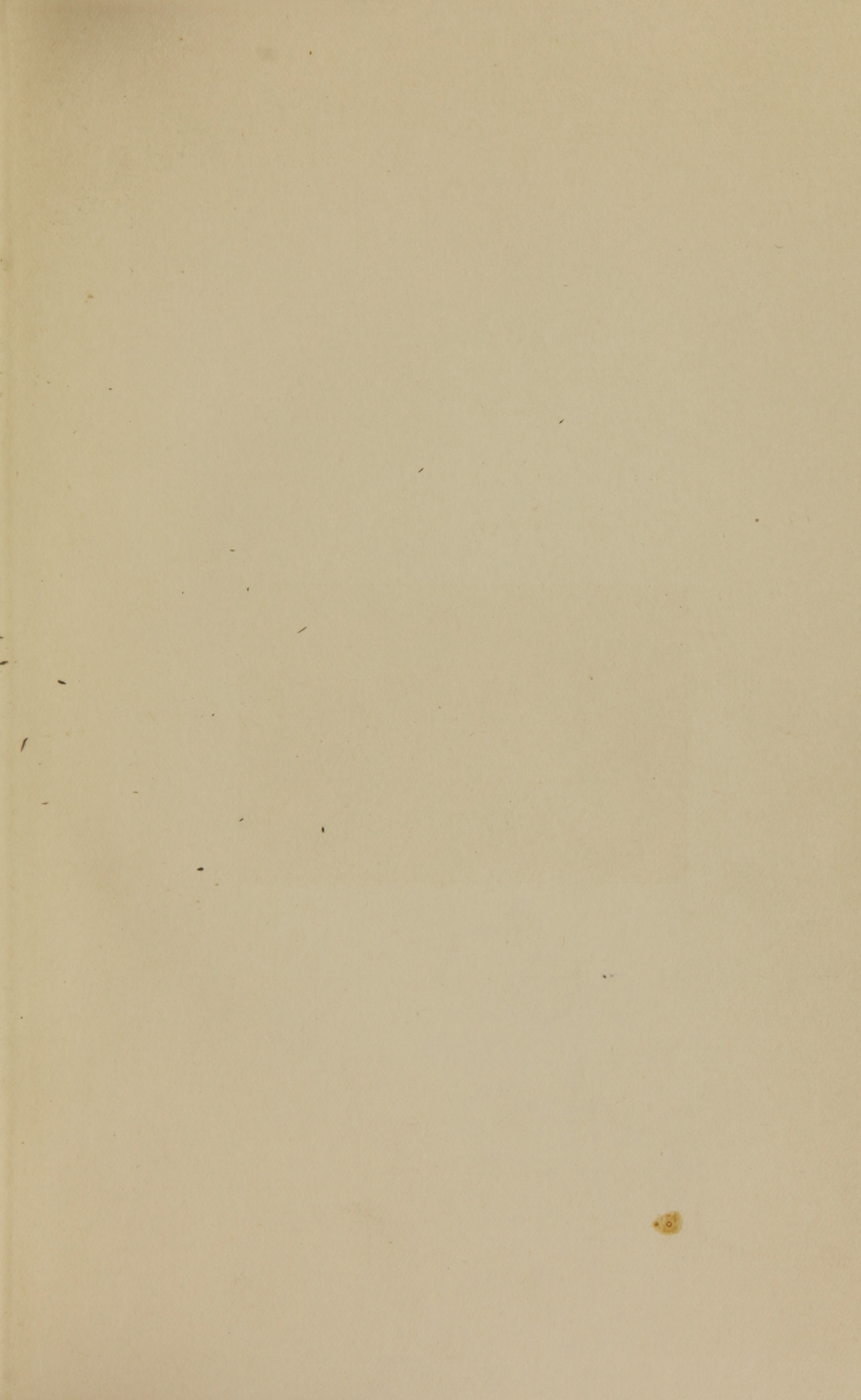
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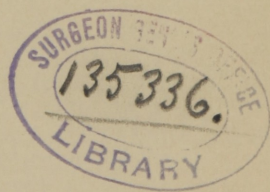


William B. Goldman

IN MEMORIAM.

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William B. Goldsmith, M. D. ✓



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A wish has been expressed by many friends of Dr. W. B. Goldsmith to have the different articles in regard to him and his work, published in papers and medical journals, gathered together in a form convenient for preservation. This seemed especially desirable, from the fact that the medical journals have a circulation only among members of that profession. This little volume is an effort to comply with that wish. A few tributes from friends have been added to the articles previously published. As the papers were all written without reference to each other, and the later ones have quotations from those written immediately after he passed away from us, which in some instances could not be omitted without rewriting, there will be found some repetitions. These we think the friends of Dr. Goldsmith will excuse, and to them this little volume is dedicated by his mother and sister.

CLIFTON SPRINGS, NEW YORK,

September 1st, 1888.

Published Memorials.

William B. Goldsmith, M. D.

[*From the American Journal of Insanity for April, 1888.*]

Dr. Goldsmith was born in Bellona, Yates county, N. Y., January 11, 1854. His education was received at the Canandaigua Academy, and at Amherst College. Graduating from Amherst in 1874 he began at once the study of medicine under the guidance of Dr. John B. Chapin, at that time superintendent of the Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane. Spending nearly a year at this asylum he became deeply interested in the subject of insanity, and pursued his medical studies with the object of ultimately connecting himself with some institution devoted to the care of the insane. He was graduated with high honor from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, in 1877, and entered upon a hospital career at the Presbyterian Hospital, which was interrupted by his appointment as junior assistant at the Bloomingdale Asylum, in May, 1877. In the fall of 1879 he resigned this position and went to Great Britain, where he spent four months as a voluntary assistant to Dr. Clouston in Edinburgh, six months in the same capacity with Dr. Major at the West Riding Asylum, and two months in the prosecution of special studies in London with Hughlings-Jackson and others. In September, 1880, he was appointed senior assistant at the Bloomingdale Asylum, and immediately returned to America to accept the position. In March, 1881, he was appointed superintendent of the Danvers Lunatic Hospital. In 1883-4 he passed a second year in Europe, studying with Westphal, Krafft-Ebing and others, and visiting the principal hospitals of Germany, Belgium and France. His superintendency of the Butler Hospital began in February, 1886.

To the Danvers Lunatic Hospital Dr. Goldsmith brought, at a somewhat critical period, a ripe experience of hospital work, and a capacity for organization that speedily made themselves felt in every department, and he had at length the satisfaction of seeing the hospital firmly established in the public favor, and of organ-

izing certain features of management which have materially influenced the subsequent treatment of insanity in New England. His removal to Providence was to the great and sincere regret of the trustees and officers of the Danvers Hospital, and was everywhere regarded as a serious loss to the public service of Massachusetts. Success attended him at the Butler Hospital, where his untimely death is deeply deplored. In every department of his specialty he was equally accomplished. Of deep convictions, conservative yet fearlessly progressive in his opinions, and with a rarely well-balanced judgment he seemed destined to exert a wide and lasting influence upon American psychiatry.

As an expert in insanity he was held in just esteem. A former Attorney-General of Massachusetts, now a Judge of the Superior Court, remarked to the writer shortly after an important capital trial which he had prosecuted, and in which Dr. Goldsmith had been the principal medical witness for the defense: "Dr. Goldsmith is an ideal expert witness. His opinions are unbiased and deliberate, his knowledge is extensive and accurate, and his honesty and sincerity of character are so impressed upon all who hear him that his testimony is almost irresistible in its weight."

Notwithstanding the pressure of official duty, Dr. Goldsmith always maintained an active interest in general medicine, and constantly sought to impress the importance of cultivating a medical spirit upon his staff. He was a member of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, of the New England Psychological Association, of the Boston Medico-Psychological Society, and of the Rhode Island State Medical Society. To these societies he made frequent contributions, his last having been a paper upon the opium and cocaine habits, which was read before the Boston Medico-Psychological Society in February last.

Although exhibiting a manner somewhat reserved and retiring, his social qualities were of a very high order. The soul of honor, generous in all his feelings, with an exquisite sense of propriety that never deserted him, and with an almost chivalrous consideration for others at all times, he was, wherever known, a favorite. The faculty of making friends he possessed in a remarkable degree, and all with whom he had once become intimate cherished an affectionate regard for him and an interest in his work which time and distance never seemed to diminish. As the chief officer of an asylum he maintained an easy dignity and a courtesy of bearing toward his subordinates which inspired obedience, loyalty

and respect. Devoted to his duty, sparing himself no burden of responsibility that belonged to his position, he created throughout an institution the feeling that in the performance of the best work within his power, lay the secret of success for each. By his patients he was greatly beloved, and many a heart whose burden he has helped to lighten now shares the common sorrow at his death.

Taken from his field of labor at an age when most men have but fairly entered upon a career, so extensive had been his acquirements, and so faithfully had he discharged his duty that, though his death at the full tide of strength and endeavor, blights many a brilliant prophecy, it bequeaths the history of a life singularly well rounded and complete, not the least value of which is that in an age of activities too often selfish, and without scruple it conclusively demonstrates that the highest personal success may be attained solely through the possession of great abilities wisely and nobly employed.

Danvers, Mass.

W. A. GORTON, M. D.

[From Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Dr. William B. Goldsmith died of pneumonia at the Butler Hospital, in Providence, on the 21st inst., aged thirty-four. He had not been quite well since a professional visit to New Orleans, where he had a febrile attack last summer, and several times of late he had spoken of feeling ill. Although the initial chill was on the 14th, he kept about, supposing that he had taken a severe cold, until the 17th. After that he grew rapidly worse, the dusky color of the skin, the weak action of a heart, which had long caused him some uneasiness, and the rapid increase in the difficulty of respiration showing clearly to him quite soon that the "chances were against him." Although wishing to live, he regarded his death with a calmness and courage which one might well envy him, and made every preparation for it to the least detail, remembering each and all of his friends with that kind thoughtfulness of others, which, well or ill, he never forgot.

At school, in college at Amherst, at the Medical School in New York, he was faithful, shy and reserved. After a short service as hospital interne he was appointed junior assistant at the Bloomingdale Asylum, where he afterwards became senior, under Dr.

Chas. H. Nichols, having previously been with Dr. Chapin at the Willard Asylum. He was also, after his experience in two asylums in this country, a volunteer assistant of Dr. Clouston, in Edinburgh, and in the West Riding Asylum, as it was splendidly organized by Crichton Browne, and later he temporarily left his duties as superintendent to study a year with Westphal and Krafft-Ebing and others in Europe. A better training one could scarcely have. Dr. Chapin had few equals in the management of asylums. Dr. Nichols held the first rank in the observation and analysis of mental phenomena, and Dr. Clouston had no superior in the clinical study and treatment of the insane.

That Dr. Goldsmith made the best use of his opportunities is attested by his valuable work as physician and superintendent of the Danvers Asylum, where he was appointed at the age of twenty-seven, and of the Butler Hospital, where he succeeded the late Dr. Sawyer two years ago. It is not too high praise to say that no man in this country is doing better work in mental disease than he did, that the treatment of the insane has become more liberal and progressive throughout New England for what he has accomplished, and that no one could look forward more confidently to the first position in his specialty in this country.

Personally, Dr. Goldsmith was a gentleman in the highest and best sense of that much-abused word. No one who knew him well can ever forget, back of his formal, shy and sensitive exterior, that rare courtesy and considerate kindness which never failed him. He was honest throughout, both morally, and, which is more difficult, intellectually. In his standards for the conduct of life, and in his daily action upon them he did not disappoint his most critical friends.

Boston, Mass.

CHAS. F. FULSOM, M. D.

[From the American Journal of Insanity for October, 1888.]

Among Dr. Goldsmith's paternal ancestors were several clergymen. His father after graduating in arts and letters, with the first honors of his class, from the University of the City of New York, and in theology from the Union Theological Seminary in the same city, spent forty-three years in the ministry. His second, last and eminently successful pastorate which was closed by his death, was of thirty-six years' duration. An obituary article which appeared in a public journal soon after his death and has the marks of disinterestedness and ability, says that, "possessing a judicial mind, his counsel was often sought and the wisdom of his advice was constantly recognized by his brethren. He was a man of very positive opinions, but had no conflict with those who thought differently. He was careful not to wound the feelings of any."

Dr. Goldsmith's mother, born McCrea, was in the paternal line of Scotch descent. Her great grandfather, Rev. Jas. McCrea, was for many years "an able and successful minister" in the Colony of New Jersey. One of the sons of the latter was a Colonel in the Colonial Army, two others entered the British Army, one of whom rose to the rank of Major General, and his youngest daughter was the beautiful Jane McCrea, whose murder by an Indian Chief at Fort Edward on the Hudson, in the summer of 1777, will ever excite emotions of distress and pity in the heart of every reader of the sad story of her tragic fate. Mrs. Goldsmith's father was at the time of his death in 1830 a member of the Assembly of the State of New York.

The subject of this memoir was born in Bellona, Yates County, N. Y., January 11, 1854. As far as I have learned the most distinguished traits of his childhood were, using the language of my informant, "a strong will and a disposition to believe nothing because others did, but to investigate for himself. When once he had decided that a thing was right and true, however, he accepted it heartily and without reserve. He also had great calmness and power to control others which made him a leader even among those older than himself."

The common school of the village and home instruction, including his father's library, were his only educational advantages until at the age of fourteen he entered the Boys' Academy in Canandaigua where he fitted for college under the care of Prof. Noah

T. Clark, long the able and efficient principal of that institution. In an obituary notice of Dr. Goldsmith contributed by Prof. Clark to a local paper he says: "An incident in the early life of Dr. Goldsmith, occurring while he was a student in our academy, revealed the secret of the great power which was so abundantly manifest in his subsequent life. The incident did not come to my knowledge until he had entered upon his professional work." It seems there was among the students a fiery young man who when angered, as he often was, became a terror to all about him and so furious as to threaten the lives of those who had offended him. "On one such occasion Goldsmith went into the hall and found the students fastening themselves into their rooms to protect themselves from his violence. He walked quietly through the hall, and meeting the angry man, put his strong hand gently on his shoulder and said in a soft, commanding tone, 'sit down on my knee until you get over this passion,' and his murderous, violent spirit was at once subdued and he sat there as in the spell of a mighty unseen power. It was this power, strong, magnetic and gentle * * * that gave to Dr. Goldsmith his great success in his treatment of the insane."

While at the Canandaigua Academy young Goldsmith frequently called at Brigham Hall to inquire after a patient in whom his mother was interested and in this way came under the notice of Dr. John B. Chapin, then one of the physicians of that institution, who writes that "he was as a boy reserved, manly, shy and had an honest, earnest face" and that he, Dr. C., "came to feel an attachment for him then."

At the age of sixteen he entered Amherst College from which he graduated in 1874 at the age of twenty. He pursued the regular course of study, but gave some special attention to chemistry. The Hon. Julius H. Seelye, president of the college, writes of his characteristics during his college life, that he was "quiet and somewhat retiring, but genuine and strong, doing his work with steady fidelity, but without self-assertion; a sincere man rather than an evidently brilliant one, he left upon the college a profounder impression of his moral earnestness than of his intellectual force. But, as I have often noted in other cases, this was the basis of a very successful career, with already large results, though so brief. His life in his profession, though it could not have been predicted by his college associates, could hardly be a surprise to those most intimate with him."

As his college course drew towards its close it is evident that

Mr. Goldsmith began to seriously consider what his life work should be, and it is altogether probable that his accidental visits to Brigham Hall and acquaintance with Dr. Chapin while he was fitting for college, made a deeper impression upon his thoughtful mind than was apparent to others, and led to his entering upon the study of medicine with a view to the career of a mental alienist, for in the course of the vacation between his junior and senior years, accompanied by his father he sought the opinion of Dr. Chapin, then at the head of the Willard Asylum, as to the probability of his success in such a career. Having the warrant, as he without doubt properly regarded it, of Dr. Chapin's favorable opinion upon this important point, in the autumn of 1874 after graduating from Amherst, he entered the Willard Asylum as a medical student and dispensing clerk, where he remained until the fall of 1875, when he matriculated in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. He also spent at Willard the interval between the two courses of lectures he attended, and in the spring of 1877 he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine for which he passed a most satisfactory examination. During his course of study for his medical degree he exhibited, as one of the professors of the college has informed me, the same diligence, fidelity and quiet, moral earnestness that had characterized him at Amherst, but it was in the course of nature that with more maturity and study his mind had developed increased power, and the faculty of medicine appears to have been more impressed with his intellectual force than the faculty of arts and letters.

After spending a few weeks as an interne of the Presbyterian Hospital of New York, Dr. Goldsmith on the 1st of May, upon the special recommendation of E. C. Seguin, M. D., then Professor of Neurological and Mental Diseases in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, received the appointment of second assistant physician of the Bloomingdale Asylum. When I took charge of that institution on the 7th of July, 1877, I found him in that position and began his personal acquaintance. I also found that he had already begun a diligent, systematic study of the cases then under care and of others as they came in, with respect both to their nature and treatment, and to the form of disease which each case illustrated, by which he rapidly gained both a theoretical and practical knowledge of mental disorders. When he *finally* left Bloomingdale early in 1881 his knowledge of the English literature of insanity and of the practical value of the views of different authors was very extensive and thorough. He did not however

neglect his patients for study, but in making his acquisitions in the literature of his profession he was evidently stimulated to verify and apply what he read to his practical duty—the comfort and relief of the sick.

By the marked quietude and composure, the diligence and fidelity, the ability and sound judgment and the care and completeness with which he discharged every duty, he soon won my entire confidence and very high personal regard. I do not recollect that he ever pleaded lack of time or strength to discharge any regular or special duty expected of him, or that he ever neglected the thorough, painstaking performance of all his duties according to his instructions and to the best of his knowledge and ability. His sympathy for patients on account of the sufferings and privations of their sickness and his consideration for their feelings were quick and unfailing and always delicately and unobtrusively manifested. It followed that he was never stung by their abusive and often plausible accusations, nor led into the use of harsh, much less resentful, expressions respecting them or their conduct, in or out of their hearing. On the other hand, the respect with which his kindness and simple, manly dignity inspired them, evidently went far to restrain many patients—particularly women—from the indelicate exhibitions of the animal nature to whose powers the loss of reason often relegates our composite humanity.

Not long after I took charge of Bloomingdale he—an ambitious young man without fortune and enjoying his first remunerative employment—one day, most unexpectedly to me, handed me his resignation, saying that he thought that every superintendent should have the opportunity of nominating his own assistants. In returning it to him, I thanked him for the opportunity he had afforded me of gladly retaining him as my own nominee in the position he occupied. As far as I ever knew, this act, manifestly proper under all similar circumstances, was not suggested to his mind by any example with which he was acquainted nor by any friend or authority, but was prompted by that just sense of the proprieties of every situation, with which he was so remarkably gifted.

With the conviction that his usefulness in the sphere of the profession which he had chosen might be enhanced by observing the arrangements and methods pursued abroad in the treatment of the insane, Dr. Goldsmith resigned his position at Bloomingdale in August, 1879, and in September sailed for England, where he first spent about six months as a volunteer assistant to Dr. Major,

of the West Riding Asylum in Yorkshire, then spent a few weeks in study—mostly in London—and in travel, and finally held a volunteer position on the staff of Dr. Clouston, of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, when, a vacancy in that position having occurred, he was invited to return to Bloomingdale to take the place of first assistant physician. He accepted the position and, returning at once from abroad, entered upon its duties on the 15th of September, 1880; and in his second period of service at Bloomingdale he displayed all the high qualities that had so eminently characterized him during his first connection with the institution, with the added ability in his work which came from a broader culture in its duties, and without in the slightest degree vaunting the high value at which both Dr. Major and Dr. Clouston had estimated his services or the rare and unusual personal attentions he had enjoyed while away.

A vacancy having occurred in the office of Medical Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Hospital for the Insane at Danvers, Dr. Goldsmith was appointed to it upon the strong recommendation of his medical and other friends both in this country and Great Britain. He was then barely twenty-seven years of age and had been a doctor of medicine two months less than four years, but without either shrinking from responsibility or offensive assertion of authority, with a calm, judicial mind and persistent purpose, his mastery of the medical and administrative affairs of that great establishment was soon complete. The people of Massachusetts had been much dissatisfied with the position and the excessive cost, as they considered, of the Hospital at Danvers, and with absurd spite at what they could not help, had transferred their dissatisfaction to its administration under authorities that were in no way responsible for what they and the public, alike but in different degrees, condemned. This blind condemnation had become somewhat exhausted when Dr. Goldsmith took charge of the institution, but having the confidence and support of the able Board of Trustees that appointed him and were close observers as well as co-workers in its able and prudent management, those of the public authorities and people of the State followed and its popularity soon became equal to the former prejudice against it. It is perhaps due to the people of Massachusetts that it should here be said that they appear to fairly appreciate their great indebtedness to Dr. Goldsmith for his agency in creating a favorable sentiment on their part towards this hospital, no part of whose cost can be returned into the treasury in money. Such

beneficent use as is now made of it is the only mode of recovering the great outlay for its establishment.

While abroad in 1879-80 Dr. Goldsmith spent his whole time in Great Britain. Thirsting for further knowledge which he could not acquire while occupied with the details of a large and very active hospital service, when he had been in charge of the Danvers Hospital for about two and one-half years, believing that he had fairly established his administrative capacity and that the institution was then in such a favorable condition both as to its reputation and actual working that he could leave it with honor, he resigned its superintendence with the view of visiting the continent of Europe for both literary and professional study. The trustees, however, invited him to withdraw his resignation and accept a year's leave of absence, which he did. He spent the year in the study of the German and French languages, the examination of institutions for the insane and in professional study under Westphal, Krafft-Ebing, Charcot and others.

Returning from abroad in July, 1884, Dr. Goldsmith resumed the charge of the Danvers Hospital and continued to superintend it with the increasing ability and usefulness that in every calling will follow the faithful applications of the lessons of study and experience, till he entered upon the duties of Superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, to which he had been elected by the trustees of that institution to fill the vacancy created by the lamented death a short time before of their former superintendent, Dr. John W. Sawyer. The manner in which he acquitted himself as the successor of the illustrious Ray and the sound, devoted and laborious Sawyer, is best attested by the eminent trustees of that institution, who in a warm but discriminating memorial minute adopted by them and entered upon their records, pay him the high tribute of saying that "He entered upon his duties here on the first day of February, 1886, and at the time of his death had discharged them with rare professional skill, with unremitting assiduity and with singular success, for the period of two years and nearly two months. In this brief period he has left upon the administration and interests of the hospital the impress of thorough and varied professional knowledge, of sound judgment, of great humanity and tenderness and of the highest qualities of educated manhood."

In an obituary notice of Dr. Goldsmith in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, the remark is made that "He had not been quite well since a professional visit to New Orleans, where he had

a febrile attack last autumn, and several times of late he had spoken of feeling ill," but the writer was most unprepared for his fatal illness, having met him only three weeks before his death when he appeared to be in higher health and spirits than usual, and expressed himself to that effect. Having for several days had what he regarded as an ordinary cold he on Wednesday, the 14th of March, took a long ride in the saddle (his favorite exercise,) and on his return complained of feeling more ill than he had done before. He however fulfilled a social engagement that evening. On the morning of the 15th he drove out for a short distance on a business errand. On Friday afternoon his physician visited him for the first time and informed him that he had pneumonia, when he remarked "one thing is against me, I have a bad heart." The disease appears to have been severe and attended with much pleuritic pain, but not to have been pronounced hopeless, when on the morning of the 20th, after himself looking over the nurse's night report he sent for his sister and telling her he "thought the crisis had come," and adding that he "hoped to get well, but that there was doubt" whether he should do so, he began, with the very sublimity of deliberate calmness and courage, to make his preparations for death, and in those last fleeting hours of life, in great weakness and pain, sent kind and appropriate messages to his particular friends, indicated the disposition he wished made of his effects and gave directions for his funeral, which by his express desire was conducted with great simplicity and without eulogistic remarks. His brief but great life came to its end at 9 o'clock on the morning of March 21st. He is buried in his native hamlet at his own request. His mother and sister, to whom he was most devotedly attached, survive him. He did not marry.

An antithesis of the problem of "squaring the circle" constantly recurs to me in seeking an appropriate illustration of the qualities of Dr. Goldsmith's character and mind. The degree to which he rounded the squares and angles of human character was phenomenal. His character was so marked by fullness and rotundity that it might have presented a sameness of aspect had not his enterprise and exquisite taste given it abundant light and shade.

It is easier to analyze the qualities of a mind whose strong elements were fewer and more dominating than were those of Dr. Goldsmith. He could not lay claim to genius whose almost intuitive acquisitions and powers are apt to be eccentric and fitful, but did possess a receptive and capacious mind that was capable

of every solid acquirement; and by the diligent, unremitting use of his time and opportunities—some of them self-created—both of his visits to Europe for professional observation and study were made upon the means he had accumulated at the time they were undertaken—his professional and general culture was remarkably wide and thorough, in view of his age and of his having, with the exception of the two years he spent abroad, from the day of receiving his doctorate to his death, spent almost every working hour in the assiduous discharge of the responsible and absorbing duties of practice and administration.

While he loved knowledge for its own sake he acquired and digested it with practical aims, and having a retentive memory, his intellectual armament was well at his command. With no prejudices nor tendencies to extreme views he possessed in a remarkable degree the power of distinguishing what was true and applicable, in considering any subject, from what was speculative, or false, or inapplicable. It follows that he usually reached wise conclusions and rarely had reason to reconsider them. Without elementary incredulity or captiousness he displayed from boyhood what I regard as a constitutional sense of owing it to his individuality to “try all things and hold fast that which is good,” and it was the natural habit of his mind, as sleeping and working were the habits of his body, to base his opinions upon his own examination of other men’s facts and reasonings and such original light as was within his own reach. He respected the opinions of authors, but did not base his own upon their ipse dixits. Having formed his opinions with care he held them with contentment and some tenacity, but without dogmatism, until new light demanded their modification.

His sense of honor was one of the dominating elements of his character. Indeed, it seemed to be the sum of its primary moral elements. In his childhood and youth he honored his parents, teachers and superiors by love or respect, and by obedience, truth and fidelity, without any undue surrender of the claims of his individuality. Later, quickened and informed by an enlightened conscience, it was the strongest underlying principle of his continued assiduity in fitting himself for the duties of life and of his faithfulness in discharging them—of his obedience, loyalty and efficient support as an assistant and of his zeal, justice, consideration and patience as a superintendent. There was never a truer man to his friends. I have known him to be at much pains to serve them with respect to interests of which they had no

knowledge; and such was his fidelity to this principle that I can not conceive of his having ever neglected such service when he knew of the occasion for it.

Dr. Goldsmith's moral and physical courage were not less remarkable than his other affective principles. If an eminent specialist in nervous and mental disorders, (Dr. C. H. Folsom), in saying that he had "intellectual courage" meant that he did not hesitate to follow the convictions of his mind against musty error or popular prejudice, I quite agree with the declaration, though, it seems to me that the power of doing so lies as much in this affective principle as that to repel the seductions of ill-founded popularity or to pursue the thorny path of right against popular condemnation. An eminent friend of another profession writes of him that "he was a brave man. He had great physical courage. I have seen it often put to the test. He had great moral courage also. Evil never approached without finding his blade unsheathed." In following his convictions, however, against those of other men, he displayed so much respect for their right and sincerity of opinion, and so little of the spirit of superior wisdom, as never to wound a friend nor make an enemy. Neither his moral nor his physical courage was attended with the slightest bravado nor with other demonstration except as the occasion for it arose. When it did arise, however unexpectedly, he always appeared to be equal to it. Early in his superintendency of the Danvers Hospital, a patient, in attempting to escape from a pursuing attendant, fell and killed himself. The matter was undergoing investigation by a committee of the legislature, and in the course of it a member with as little sense as breeding, after making some absurd criticisms of the occurrence, asked Dr. Goldsmith a question that implied uncandid self-defense on his part, when he quietly but firmly declined to answer any further questions put by that member. He was supported in his refusal by the other members of the committee. When Dr. Goldsmith's youth and inexperience at this time, and the great respect in which he held the committee as a sub-representative of the sovereign authority of the State, are considered, this must be regarded as an act of moral courage as high as it was rare.

There is not in all history that I recall a sublimer display of moral courage than his prognosis of his imminent death twenty-four hours before it occurred, and the resignation and calmness with which he made preparations for it. Several instances have been related to me of his display of physical courage, but, as any

one well acquainted with him would have expected, they were not characterized by the slightest fool-hardiness nor by any insensibility to the danger he encountered.

That magnetism which attracts men to each other was one of the remarkable attributes of Dr. Goldsmith's moral constitution. I have never known a man who made more fast friends than he did, and I never knew him to lose one, so constant and true was he to the obligations of friendship. But he never loved at first sight. The magnetism that drew other men to him was not marked by any sudden, brilliant, overpowering displays of energy. Like that of the pole, it was quiet, unremitting and unrelaxing. He therefore formed friendships slowly, not because of a distrustful, much less a cynical spirit towards men, but partly, as I think, from some natural reserve, and partly because it was the actual and natural habit of his mind to prepare for every proposed undertaking and every event and relation that concerned him, by deliberate observation and consideration. When his friendships were formed, their stability and fervor were in proportion to the depth at which they had been planted and the slowness of their steady growth. The poet Whittier, who resides not far from the Danvers Hospital, writing on the day of his death to a mutual friend, says: "I feel as if I had lost a brother; he was such a true, good friend and neighbor." An appreciative lay gentleman, who made his acquaintance after he graduated in medicine and who made the journey from New York to Providence to attend his funeral, wrote me that "the grief of every one, from trustees to the laboring men on the place, was most sincere." I forbear to make other quotations upon this point, lest they should unduly prolong this paper. I cannot, however, proceed without adding that a large number of letters has been put into my hands, several from abroad, in which, in addition to the warmest eulogiums upon his character, ability, attainments and services to humanity, there are the most ardent expressions of personal affection for him and of grief for his death.

Dr. Goldsmith was ambitious and appreciated his attainments and what he had accomplished. He also appreciated the good opinion of his fellow men, as I believe all men do who are in sympathy with the highest aims of life. Without prudishness or pietism, I believe that his life presented an example of almost faultless purity and correctness. As Dr. Charles F. Folsom has said of him, he was "a gentleman in the best sense of that much abused word." He never forgot nor omitted the consideration

and courtesies due to his associates, high or low. His manners were not graceful, but correct. He had a thorough acquaintance with the usages of polite society and never failed to observe them. These traits and his wide information made him a favorite in the best social circles.

Having briefly presented the history of Dr. Goldsmith's short, useful and noble life in narrative and analytical aspects, with such quotations and observations as seemed appropriate to the period of his life or element of his mind under consideration, and believing that it will do his memory better justice and be more satisfactory to the audience I address, I will here let other witnesses bear testimony to his character as one of effective ability, usefulness and worth. I shall not, however, quote any sentiment which I do not fully endorse. The President of this Association, Dr. John B. Chapin, who, as you have been informed, had known him from the age of fourteen, and has ever since been his warm friend, and, since the close of his junior year in college, his frequent adviser, writes: "His opinions were honestly formed, and he was content to entertain them. He was not aggressive nor combative, but was mild in his manner, gentle towards his patients, considerate of the feelings of others, * * * and of dignified deportment. At an early age he had the broad culture and maturity of judgment that as a rule men only acquire at a later date in their lives. He was faithful to all trusts and to the highest conceptions of his responsibilities. He possessed in the largest sense the power of eliminating from any subject the elements necessary to a wise conclusion. We have met with a great loss."

Dr. W. A. Gorton, who was his assistant for several years and then his successor at Danvers, and has now been appointed to succeed him at the Butler Hospital, probably knew more of his daily life, official and personal, since he assumed the responsibilities of the direction of an institution for the insane, than any other person. He writes: "No one could meet him without feeling at once a sense of his exalted manhood. Not only was he a gentleman in the highest sense of the word, but there was in him so strong an element of personal purity and integrity that it impressed itself irresistibly and from the first upon all who knew him. His ideal of life, never obtrusively manifested, was high, and in all his daily relations he was true to it. In the performance of the duties of superintendent he was the embodiment of justice, and of that kindly dignity which enforce obedience, loyalty and respect. No duty was small enough to be evaded; no responsi-

bility so great that he ever sought to escape it. His judgment was wonderfully accurate and never hasty. His patience was tireless, and so great was his kindness that he sometimes seemed willing to suffer imposition rather than give pain to a wearisome visitor."

In an obituary notice of Dr. Goldsmith in the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INSANITY*, it is stated that a former attorney general of Massachusetts and now a judge of the Superior Court of that State, said of him that he "is an ideal expert witness. His opinions are unbiased and deliberate, his knowledge is extensive and accurate, and his honesty and sincerity of character are so impressed upon all who hear him, that his testimony is almost irresistible in weight."

I will close these quotations with a few other words from Whittier. He writes: "Let it be the consolation of his friends that * * * his life, though short, was so rounded and complete; so full of worthy achievement and good works."

We shall do Dr. Goldsmith's memory scant honor and ourselves much injustice if we only regard his exalted character with wonder and admiration. His life was an instructive one to all men, but particularly to us as physiologists and psychists. If, as I believe, heredity has always the potency of the character that is built upon it, the converse is likely to be true, and is so in fact. According to circumstances and within moderate limits character may be better or worse than the heredity from which it has upgrown, but no training will make Websters of the sons of imbeciles, nor Howards or Dixes of the children of the selfish and depraved. In education the stream of individual human life may rise higher than its sources, but in capacity and character it rarely does so; and when it does it is always liable to fall back to the level from which it sprung. These principles, whose observance is so important to the development of our race, the obligations of our calling require us to study and practically enforce in every proper manner. Dr. Goldsmith's ancestors on both sides appear to have been strong, intellectual and cultivated people of the upper middle class. They do not appear to have reached those heights of wealth, power and luxury at which degeneracy is apt soon to begin. His father was noted for his sound judgment, high sense of honor and positive opinions, which he held with firmness but not in an aggressive or contentious spirit. His judgment was so sound as to be in much request in the church and neighborhood. If nothing had been known of his father his son would have been

graphically described in the same words. "The child is father to the man." The boy Goldsmith early began to investigate for himself, and to show the bent and power of his mind—his capacity for mastery and achievement in a learned profession. The lesson is, that when called to advise with reference to the career of the sons of ambitious parents, we should not send a boy to college who should go to the flail or the hammer or the yardstick. How many boys are doomed to be miserable failures in the professions, who might have been prosperous and happy in cultivating and developing a western farm! And yet the best heredity is only a capacity for development, and no one can too highly appreciate or be too grateful for such an excellent training as Goldsmith enjoyed. Otherwise he might have been only a "village Hampden."

The other lessons of Goldsmith's life and character are for self-application. If we lack the capacity, receptiveness and love of culture that he exhibited—if our sense of honor in all its nicest applications in our intercourse with our fellow men be not as quick and dominating in us as it was in him—if neither our moral nor our physical courage be equal to his—if our calmness and devotion to duty, our politeness without sycophancy and our gentleness without weakness, be inferior to his, the responsible positions we have severally attained forbid the belief that by the faithful practice of his industry and emulation of his virtues we cannot more or less enhance our usefulness in our most responsible calling, and further exalt that good name among our fellow men to which it is both our duty and I doubt not our ambition to aspire.

To the assistant physicians of our institutions for the insane I wish to particularly commend Dr. Goldsmith's noble example, whether they view it from the high standpoint of duty or the low one of interest. When only 27 years of age, and he had had less than four years' experience in his profession, he was, purely upon his own merits, recommended for the medical and executive head of a very large and important hospital situated near the cultivated metropolis of New England, with great confidence that he had the ability, wisdom, integrity and firmness necessary to rescue it from the perils and difficulties of that crucial period of its history, and raise it to the enjoyment of public confidence and support. That confidence, which proved to be so well founded, was based upon the ability and earnestness and the fidelity and loyalty that he had displayed as an assistant. It sometimes happens that responsibility develops unexpected practical powers, but as a rule to which the exceptions are few, as the character of the assistant so is the

character of the superintendent. If the ripening life of the assistant be that of unsullied honor, earnest duty and diligent attainment, his mature powers will only be limited by the ordinances of Nature, with respect to mental and bodily capacity, which it is an idle sacrilege to attempt to exceed.

Bloomington, New York.

CHAS. H. NICHOLS, M. D.

The above memoir was read at the annual meeting of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, held at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, May 15-18, 1888. Further remarks upon Dr. Goldsmith's life and character were made as follows:

Dr. GUNDRY. I wish to lay a single flower upon the grave of Dr. Goldsmith, and to acknowledge the very high sense of indebtedness I feel to him. I met him but two or three times in my life, but I had some long and pleasant conversations with him from which I learned, I must say, more of the inner life of foreign institutions than I had acquired from any other person. I have always felt a great deal of respect for Dr. Goldsmith, and I was very strongly impressed with some features of his mind. The readiness with which his mind worked in certain grooves was very noticeable to me. He impressed me very much, as was said of a great lawyer by another lawyer, that with the great abilities he possessed he would have achieved high success without ordinary diligence, or with the extraordinary diligence always used he would have achieved success without his great abilities. He was a remarkably well-poised man, a remarkably well-balanced man.

I am very grateful to have had the privilege of listening to Dr. Nichols' address. It certainly is a beautiful one and teaches all of us some very impressive lessons. We know that old saying, whom the gods love die young, and we feel peculiar solemnity when we come to view the death of the young. It is comparatively easy to look upon the departure of one who has ripened in years, who has achieved the measure of his success and also the measure of the enjoyment of the world in his allotted sphere, but when we come to mourn the death of the young, when we see the reversal of the ordinary laws of nature, the young who should have mourned the loss of their parents and aged friends being mourned by them, our grief is keenest. Altogether, Mr. President, the story of his active life and courageous death has impressed me very deeply;

indeed, much more so than I can give utterance to, and recalls to my mind those exquisite lines of Tickell:

He taught us how to live, and Oh! too high
The price of knowledge! Taught us how to die.

Dr. CHANNING. Although Dr. Nichols has given such an admirable address upon the character of Dr. Goldsmith I feel it a duty to add my personal tribute to the memory of my late departed friend.

I had known him for nearly eight years, and had learned to respect him more and like him better as each year elapsed. From the beginning I was struck by the independence and strength of his character, and the broad and mature qualities of his mind. He seemed to be perfectly balanced, and accurate in judgment from the very first, and was equal to undertaking and carrying through the most difficult and delicate projects.

His task at the Danvers Hospital when he assumed its management was no small one, yet with unerring sagacity and patience he lifted it from the mire and gave it a reputable position among the State institutions of Massachusetts.

At the Butler Hospital his task was a different one, but here, also, strength and breadth of treatment were necessary, and in a remarkably short space of time he accomplished results which would have been brought about by an ordinary man only after years of persistent work.

He was essentially a man of science and carried into all his work a scientific spirit which elevated the work itself, and improved the quality of that performed by others.

His death was simple and characteristic. He had lived patiently, he died patiently, calmly recognizing his approaching end, and at a period when many weaker minds would have thought only of living longer.

Dr. Channing also read a letter from Dr. Edward Cowles, expressing his great regret at being unable to attend the meeting and pay his tribute of respect to Dr. Goldsmith's memory. He also read the following letter from Dr. Cowles:

I am not familiar enough with the details of the work of the large State asylums to speak intelligently of Dr. Goldsmith's labor at Danvers; but I know the justice of the common reputation, which he seemed to easily gain in his few years there, of administering that asylum with a mastery and success that would have done credit to maturer years and long experience.

With his work at Butler Hospital I am more familiar through our mutual consultations, and it was during his two years there, that my acquaintance with him ripened into a strong friendship, with the highest respect for his abilities, and his nobility of character. The indications for the future that at the present time concern the asylums of the class of the Butler Hospital are peculiar and important. Dr. Goldsmith's readiness in grasping the situation, and his foresight and discretion in laying in train the proper elements for future results, were significant that his work would be great and useful. His genius for construction was positive, as is shown in the Sawyer Building, one of the most interesting structures yet devised for its particular purpose.

His opportunities were great, and they came to him early in his professional life, but it was because of the charm of his character, and the confidence it inspired, that such opportunities came. I shall never forget the impression made upon me by one of my personal observations of his fineness of feeling, and generous consideration, in his relations with his patients. He had the foresight to fit himself exceptionally well for the career he had marked out, and thus has set an example that may well be followed.

Added to such qualifications, he always bore upon himself, in spite of his modesty, the marks of a judicial and philosophic temperament. All who knew him as acquaintances, friends, or patients, expected at sight, fairness and candor in his treatment of them, and many knew not why they so trusted him.

While he accomplished much, and made impressions that will not be effaced in his comparatively short professional life, it is fair to say also, that a large measure is added to our sense of what we have lost, by our recognition of what was potential in him. Whatever of good work he had done, I think we always felt a peculiar assurance of good work to come.

In thus bearing some small testimony to his personal worth, and expressing my sense of personal loss, it must not be forgotten that a true insight into the significance of his professional life in New England points to much more than the mere tangible results of the work he has accomplished, and to the influence of his breadth and strength of character, and of the lesson of his personal life.

This life of one we have loved and honored has brought into ours a new experience of the sympathy and inspiration that springs with quick response to such an example of a noble life well spent. I desire to join with the Association in the honor it will render to his memory.

EDWARD COWLES.

McLean Hospital, Somerville, Mass.

[*From the Journal of Mental Science, July, 1888.*]

There are many in this country who, from their personal knowledge of Dr. Goldsmith, received the intelligence of his death, which took place on the 21st March, with the deepest regret. During his residence in Britain all who formed his acquaintance entertained for him the most sincere regard, confirmed in the

experience of some of us by seeing him in the asylum of which he was superintendent in the United States. A long career of active work among the insane was expected; the last idea present to the mind of the visitor being that that life would be cut short in its prime, for the loss of which such universal sorrow has been felt and expressed. We take the first opportunity of uniting with our co-alienists in America in the profound grief excited by his unexpected and lamented death.

He was educated with the view of taking up the special department of medicine of which he proved to be so able and hard-working a member. He graduated at Amherst College, Mass., and then studied medicine under Dr. Chapin, the superintendent of the Willard Asylum, where he remained a year. In 1877 he passed the examination of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. He spent, subsequently, one year acquiring knowledge in the hospitals in London and Edinburgh.

In response to our request, Dr. Clouston has jotted down his reminiscence of Dr. Goldsmith when he acted as assistant medical officer during several months at Morningside: "He threw himself into the work with the intensest enthusiasm. He evidently was most anxious to learn all he could about the treatment of patients in Scotland. His mind was open, and a most candid one. I always enjoyed in going round the wards with him an argument about our system as contrasted with the American plan. I very well remember we happened to have in the department of which he had temporary charge a young lady suffering from the most violent acute mania. She was deliriously excited, very homicidal, and had a sort of unnatural strength for the time. To give her daily walks it always took four or five good attendants, specially accorded her, during the worst part of her attack. Dr. Goldsmith and I discussed, while standing by her and her staff of attendants in the garden one day, most fully, the whole question of Restraint and Seclusion *versus* Freedom in the presence of the terrible symptoms presented by this poor girl. He said that in every asylum in America she would have been either placed in a seclusion room or in some way mechanically restrained, possibly both. I asked him, 'Well, now you see what we do. What do you think of it?' His reply was: 'Your treatment is the most humane, provided that you have good attendants and plenty of them; and, moreover, are not afraid if any accident does occur, but in that "if" lies the whole question between you and us.'

"Dr. Goldsmith was a man not only likeable, but loveable in his

personal disposition. He had a quiet, kindly manner, was full of a certain dignity and self-restraint, and was a gentleman to the backbone.

"He got on well with his colleagues, he governed the staff as if he were no stranger, and he was greatly beloved by his patients. He had the scientific and clinical spirit in a high degree. He never sank the doctor in the manager. He was always present at post-mortem examinations, and was an extensive reader of general neurological research. During my visit to America, when Dr. Goldsmith met me at the Danvers asylum, I experienced that feeling one always has towards an old colleague with whom one has lived in daily association."

Dr. Goldsmith studied also in Germany, including Vienna, where he studied under Meynert. On his return he became Assistant Medical Officer at the Bloomingdale Asylum, New York, whose superintendent, Dr. Nichols, quickly recognized his worth, and became warmly attached to him. He writes: "I feel the death of Dr. Goldsmith more than I can tell. He seemed to me almost like a younger brother. His was one of the strongest, most symmetrical, best rounded, and most complete characters I have ever known. How much he had achieved at thirty-four! What promise he gave of future usefulness and fame! I find it difficult to be reconciled to his death." Dr. Goldsmith, on his part, looked up to Dr. Nichols as his teacher and friend, and consulted him in after years when in want of counsel as to his course in life. At the early age of twenty-seven he was appointed superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane at Danvers, Mass., where he threw all his energies into that large institution, and was esteemed by all with whom he came in contact. He was a frequent visitor at the house of the poet Whittier in the neighborhood, and was a great admirer of the man and of his poetry. We have reason to know that Whittier reciprocated the feeling of Dr. Goldsmith. There he remained until the death of Dr. Sawyer, which created a vacancy in the office of superintendent of the Butler Asylum, Providence, Rhode Island. Dr. Nichols it was who recommended him to the trustees of this hospital, and he proved a worthy successor of the men who had preceded him. At the time of his appointment he was thirty-two years of age, and he occupied the post for a little more than two years, namely, from January, 1886, to March, 1888. It is stated that "during this brief period he had performed the difficult duties of his position with signal abilities and success, and had won for himself the entire confidence and the warm

esteem of the trustees and friends of the hospital, while the innate kindliness of his spirit and the gentleness of his manners were widely felt among its inmates. He came here with a high reputation, which he has fully sustained and extended during his brief residence in Providence. In the special department of the medical world to which he was devoted, he already held a place in the foremost ranks. His training had been thorough and diversified, his experience large and varied, and his qualifications for the difficult position which he filled were of the highest order. His unexpected death will bring sorrow, not only to those with whom he was more immediately associated in the management of the hospital, but to all who estimate aright the importance of high professional character and acquirements to the entire community."

The cause of death was pneumonia, which lasted for a week. He suffered severe pleuritic pain; the highest temperature was 104°, his pulse frequent and weak, and he became much prostrated. In addition to the medical advice afforded by the city, the services of Drs. Folsom and Shattuck were obtained, and the former sat up with him during the night. He himself remarked during his illness: "One thing is against me, I have a bad heart." Subsequently he said to his sister, "The crisis has come, and I hope to get well, but there is doubt." Several days before he died he said with his characteristic cheerfulness, "It must be all for the best."

One of the Governors of the New York Hospital and Bloomingdale Asylum writes: "The death of Dr. Goldsmith is to me a loss of a warm personal friend. I have been greatly drawn to him during the past two years; a most judicious, earnest friend, full of talent, self-reliant, most honorable, and alive to any advanced professional work." The same hand writes: "The service in the chapel was of the most simple character, directed by Dr. Goldsmith himself. He awaited death with supreme courage, and it was only the day before, that he gave up the hope that he would survive. The grief of everyone, from the trustees to the laboring men on the place, was most sincere."

To him may be applied the lines of his friend Whittier—

"His daily prayer, far better understood
In acts than words, was simply doing good,
So calm, so constant was his rectitude,
That by his loss alone we know its worth,
And feel how true a man has walked with us on earth."

Dr. Goldsmith died unmarried, and leaves a widowed mother and a sister to mourn his untimely loss, for whom we venture to express our warm sympathy.

London, England.

DR. HACK TUKE.

[From the Providence Journal, March 22, 1888.]

Dr. William B. Goldsmith, superintendent of Butler Insane Asylum, died yesterday. The news will surprise everyone who knew him, and greatly shock those who appreciated his professional rank. He became ill from a cold last week, but was out as late as Thursday. On Saturday his physicians pronounced him dangerously ill with pneumonia. He had been so far attended by Drs. Ely and Mitchell, of this city, but Dr. Folsom, of Boston, a personal friend, and Dr. Shattuck, a specialist, were now summoned. The progress of the sickness was rapid, and at nine o'clock this morning Dr. Goldsmith died.

His age was about thirty-four years, and he took the superintendency of Butler Asylum two years ago last month. He graduated at Amherst College and was educated for specialism in insanity. He passed two years in the hospitals of Great Britain—at London and Edinburgh—and Germany, and began professional practice at the Bloomingdale Asylum, New York, under Dr. Nichols, the foremost specialist on insanity in the United States. When he was twenty-seven years old he was called to the superintendency of the Danvers Hospital, at Danvers, Mass., and stayed there until invited to come to Providence. Dr. Nichols, his former chief, recommended him to the trustees of Butler Asylum when Dr. Sawyer's death occurred. He came here with a perfect reputation, and the work he accomplished justified the choice the trustees made in every respect.

His eminence as a specialist will probably be spoken of extendedly in the future. It need only be said at this time that his friends anticipated he would in time gain the leading position in the country in his professional department. He was already recognized as the foremost of the young men. At Butler Asylum, without losing complete harmony with the work of Dr. Sawyer, he built up a system of treatment and government which will have effect for many years. It is somewhat interesting that the completion of the building which is to be a memorial to Dr. Sawyer at the asylum was to take place this month.

[*From Providence Journal, March 24, 1888.*]

It having been my privilege to frequently meet and be brought into close intimacy with Dr. Goldsmith, I cannot refrain from the privilege of paying the tribute of a friend to his memory.

Dr. Goldsmith had not been long enough in this community to become a familiar personage in our streets, and his close attention to his professional calling did not bring him suddenly and intimately into contact with large numbers of people, but no one ever took him by the hand or engaged him in conversation without an immediate recognition of somewhat of his power, and the more one met and the nearer one got to the heart of the man the more deeply he was impressed.

The son of a Presbyterian minister, he imbibed that high sense of honor, that almost feminine delicacy of intuition, and that sturdy and manly integrity which has characterized so many of the sons of ministers in this country.

He was born to command, and what it took others long years to acquire he seemed to grasp without effort—and yet he was always deliberate, careful and methodical in all which was brought to his attention, but once having acquired it he never lost his possession, so that he was ever gaining and broadening, without any retrogression.

Selected to take charge of the newest and we think, the largest insane asylum in the State of Massachusetts, at twenty-seven years of age, he entered upon the service with the firm and quiet dignity of a man of years of experience and so conducted its affairs as to command the respect of all and the love of every trustee and officer, and of the attendants, patients and servants of the establishment. His yea was yea, and his nay was nay; and yet there was no sense of fear or dread in his rule. He was a kingly man, whose rule, though firm, was the rule of duty and love.

While in Danvers he became the intimate personal friend of the poet Whittier, who was a near neighbor, and that friendship continued unto the end, and since his decease the poet has sent tender words of sympathy to those whom he has left to mourn him.

How little could we have expected that he would be the first to go, and that he would be destined to enter first into his rest.

Dr. Goldsmith was one whose creed, though short, was all-comprehensive, and was comprehended in the two great command-

ments—love to God and love to his fellow men, and his conduct of life was such that each day he lived for the duty before him, and by the conscientious discharge of that duty he was ready and able to take up the next, whether here and now or in the great unknown beyond.

“The Present, the Present is all thou hast
 For thy sure possessing;
 Like the patriarch’s angel hold it fast
 Till it gives its blessing.
 * * * * *
 Then of what is to be, and of what is done,
 Why quieriest thou?
 The past and the time to be are one,
 And both are now.
 All is of God that is and is to be;
 And God is good.”

[*From the Ontario County Times.*]

To many of your readers, especially in the eastern part of the county, the death of Dr. Goldsmith will be felt with the most profound sorrow, as it will to all who knew him in his youth, or in his most successful professional life.

Dr. Goldsmith at the time of his death last Wednesday, after only a week of sickness, was superintendent of the Butler Insane Asylum at Providence, R. I., in which position he had been more than two years. He was the only son of the late Rev. B. M. Goldsmith, D. D., so long the beloved and successful pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Bellona, Yates County. He pursued his studies preparatory to college in Canandaigua Academy, and his college course at Amherst. A classmate in the academy, and in college a class and room mate of one of our Canandaigua boys, he was in all respects an Ontario County boy—save that his home was a little over the line—and I tender these few words as a brief tribute to his great promise and worth, and to my admiration of his character and my sorrow in his early death.

The closing of such a noble life, so full of hope and of promise, so rich in resources for the comfort and recovery of the unfortunate class for whose treatment he was so eminently qualified, is a most sad and mysterious providence, and yet one with which

we are all familiar; but we have this comfort that we have the blessed memory of such a life, even though so brief.

An incident in the early life of Dr. Goldsmith, occurring while he was a student in our academy, revealed the secret of the great power which was so abundantly manifest in his subsequent life. The incident did not come to my knowledge until he had entered upon his professional work. There was among the students then (1870) a fiery Southerner, who, when angered as he often was, became a terror to all about him, and so furious as to threaten the lives, in true Southern style, of those who had offended him. On one such occasion Goldsmith went into the hall, and found the students fastening themselves into their rooms to protect themselves from his violence. He walked quietly through the hall, and meeting the angry man, put his strong hand (he had but one) gently on his shoulder, and said in a soft, commanding tone, "R——n, sit down on my lap until you get over this passion," and his murderous, violent spirit was at once subdued, and he sat there as one in the spell of a mighty unseen power. It was this power, strong, magnetic, and gentle, that gave to Dr. Goldsmith his great success in his treatment of the insane.

I used to think when in school that he lacked somewhat of the push and energy of successful men, but what I took for that lack proved to be his most distinguishing strength. It was his gentleness that made him great; the power of a meek and quiet spirit that gave him success with those to whom he ministered and endeared him so affectionately to all who came to know him, and his remarkable work.

N. T. C.

Personal Tributes.

PERSONAL TRIBUTES.

DEAR MRS. GOLDSMITH:

I cannot sufficiently express to you the grief I have experienced on the reception of the news of the death of your son William, and my sympathy has gone out to you and your daughter. The news has been a shock to my family. We were attached to Dr. Goldsmith by the strong ties of long acquaintance and sincere friendship, and he had a strong hold upon our affections. This homage was due to him, as among thousands he was sincere, free from all guile, true to his friends, his convictions, and to good principles, to a greater degree than the multitude. For him I had the strongest attachment. At an early period of his life he seemed to lean upon me as his master, but in recent years I have learned to look up to him. He started later and upon a higher plane, and of all in our special department of medicine, he was, as I have frequently asserted, the most promising, and already with the foremost. His career has been useful and distinguished both in this and in other countries, where he was already known, although still comparatively young in years. If he was thus distinguished at the bar of his chosen profession, and if his loss will there be deeply deplored, how great to you that loss must be. God bless you all in this hour of deepest distress, and comfort you with his promises. * * * * *

Sincerely your friend,

Kirkbride, Philadelphia, Pa.

JOHN B. CHAPIN.

MY DEAR MRS. GOLDSMITH:

What your son was to his profession and its future, his medical colleagues will have said "as those having authority." What he was in private life remains for his friends to remember with a peculiar reverence which it is not easy to put into words. My acquaintance with him was a brief one, but it was long enough for me to learn that his was no ordinary nature. I used to think him one of the bravest men I knew. He endured trouble or care with

a strong silence; as iron carries weight. He took his life, which was not an easy one, so manfully that it was a stimulus to one's own pluck to know him. It is relatively easy to have courage; which is a flash-light. He had fortitude, which lasts. Something of the soldierly, which was so marked in his personal carriage, struck through his whole being. "He did not look like a dead man; he looked like a general," said a friend who turned weeping from his coffin.

Woven through his strength of nature and of character, ran a rare delicacy. One always knew that his thought was of the fine fibre which can be trusted. He was considerate, tender, conscious of the unsaid, aware of the "unwritten laws." He was a gentleman "deep down."

He seemed to me a man of promise more brilliant even than his already extraordinary achievement. His head and brow and eye foretold that. His death is one of the mysteries of life. He must be greatly wanted in the unknown existence—he was so needed here. Whatever he is doing, and in whatever world of pure hearts and brave deeds he may be doing it, he has carried to it an education of consecration to the unselfish and the spotless which can be no more wasted than the loving personal memories left in the lives that were brought near to his.

I am, dear madam, with sorrowful sympathy,

Yours sincerely,

Gloucester, Mass.

ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS.

*[A few sentences from a letter of Rev. JAMES G. VOSE, D. D.,
Providence, R. I.]*

"Your dear brother was one whom all admired, and who won the ready confidence of all who knew him. Truth was manifest in every look and word, while a noble forgetfulness of self made him always ready to serve others. What must he have been to mother and sister! His lofty character set forth the power of true Christianity, and with all his might he was striving to do good.

"May you and your beloved mother be sustained by the same fortitude and simple devotion to duty! Your task is perhaps harder than his, for he was permitted to toil on, in full strength to

the end. But in our different spheres God will help us to work out a life pleasing to Him."

In the death of Dr. Goldsmith I mourn the loss of one of my dearest friends. The privilege of his neighborly kindness and friendship it is not easy for me to over-estimate. A man of superior ability, wise beyond his years, his natural fitness for the great work of his life, the love and confidence which he called forth from the suffering people under his charge, the patience, self-control and mingled firmness and sympathy which he manifested on all the trying occasions of his vocation, proved him to be unmistakably a providential man. He had that great but strong enthusiasm of humanity which finds its happiness as well as its duty in relieving the suffering and leading home the stray. Outside of his profession he was a universal favorite. All who knew him loved him. The brief calls on his friends and neighbors which the incessant duties of his position permitted him, were always welcome. He had a fine sense of humor, and a ready perception of the ludicrous, but they were never indulged at the expense of the poor and unfortunate.

Nothing in him was more noticeable than his deep and tender reverence for human nature however mentally warped or disfigured. He saw the image of God in all who were under his care. What wonder that his patients loved him with a love which, at his death, would not be comforted!

In our sorrow for his loss may we not find consolation in the thought that in his short life he did a work the beneficial effects of which will long survive him. There was no failure in the rounded completeness of his life.

Danvers, Mass.

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

WILLIAM BENJAMIN GOLDSMITH.

1888.

AGED THIRTY-FOUR YEARS.

Like Rachel, still we mourn beside our dead;
 Though well we know the blessed earth now holds
 His grave, in shade and sun, while pass the years.
 We knew his strong, unfettered growth, as swift
 And true as mounting bird. We saw him stand,
 Fresh, free, and brave,—full-furnished for the brunt
 Of manhood's strengthening toil; to right grave wrongs,
 Uphold weak souls, crush false surmise, and teach
 To selfishness its shame. And then—the glow
 Of morning sunshine sudden ceased. Like night
 Before the dawn, the void his absence makes
 Keeps us aghast and dumb.

But from the silence
 Swells a voice, at first too clear for ears
 Untouched by hands divine.

*My harvest stood
 In perfect growth, full eared and ripe. Do ye
 Not know that time is not for Me? Youth goes
 When wisdom comes, and dwelleth not in days.
 What storms and heats perfected him ye see
 By the wide path his going makes for you
 To tread. In silence grows the corn to feed
 The nations; in silence grows a man; and where
 He is, shall be a sign of peace and health.
 He liveth long, who learns to do my will.*

ANNE SIBLEY ANGELL.

Resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS.

THE LATE WILLIAM BENJAMIN GOLDSMITH, M. D.

The following Memorial Minute was adopted at a meeting of the Trustees of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, on Thursday, April 5, 1888, and ordered to be entered in the Records, and to be published:

William Benjamin Goldsmith, M. D., superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, died of pneumonia after an illness of seven days, on Wednesday, March 21, 1888, at the age of thirty-four years, two months and ten days. He was born in Bellona, Yates County, N. Y., January 11, 1854, and was the son of the late Rev. Benjamin M. Goldsmith. He was educated at Amherst College, where he graduated in 1874. He immediately began the study of medicine, with special reference to the treatment of mental disease, and spent a year under the guidance of Dr. John Chapin, of the Willard Asylum. The two following years he was a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, where he received his degree as Doctor of Medicine in 1877, and was soon appointed Second Assistant Physician in the Bloomingdale Hospital for the Insane, of which Dr. Charles H. Nichols is the distinguished head. At the end of a service of two and a half years, he went to Europe and carried forward his professional studies amidst great advantages in well known hospitals in London and Edinburgh, in the latter city also as temporary assistant to Dr. Clouston, of the Royal Asylum. While absent, he was appointed first assistant physician on the staff of Dr. Nichols, of the Bloomingdale Hospital, and had been but a few months in this position when he was invited to become superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane at Danvers, Mass. While charged with the duties of this office, he was permitted to spend nearly a year in Germany, for special professional studies.

Such had been the training and experience of Dr. Goldsmith when he was chosen by the Trustees of the Butler Hospital to become its superintendent, on the death of the late Dr. John W. Sawyer. He entered upon his duties here on the first day of February, 1886, and at the time of his death had discharged them with rare professional skill, with unremitting assiduity, and with singular success, for the period of two years and nearly two months. In this brief period, he has left upon the administration and interests of the hospital the impress of thorough and varied professional knowledge, of

sound judgment, of great humanity and tenderness, and of the highest qualities of educated manhood. His manners were reserved, but they always revealed a refined and gentle nature which did not fail to secure the confidence and esteem of those with whom he was associated. As a superintendent, he was fulfilling the high expectations with which his appointment had been made. His treatment of the patients under his charge was in accordance with the liberal and progressive methods now most approved, and it has been attended with important results. Nor was his success confined to professional matters alone. In the management of all the interests of the hospital, in the development of its grounds, in the cultivation of its farm and in the improvement of its buildings, he has shown only good judgment and skill. And the Trustees record, with special satisfaction, the advantages they have derived from his wise counsel, his varied experience and his architectural taste in the planning and erection of the new ward now in progress of construction as a memorial of the late Dr. Sawyer, his predecessor. He has been taken from us at a moment most unexpected, just as he had fully shown how ample were his qualifications for the position which he held, and how full of promise was the future that was opening before him.

The following resolutions on the death of Dr. Wm. Goldsmith were passed by the Board of Trustees of the Danvers Lunatic Hospital, at the meeting held April 6, 1888, and now appear upon their records:

Voted—Whereas, Since the last meeting of this Board, the death of Dr. William B. Goldsmith physician and superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane at Providence, R. I., has occurred; and

Whereas, From the first day of March, 1881, to the time of his appointment at the Butler Hospital, he was physician and superintendent of this hospital, and

Whereas, He was a man of marked integrity, skill, knowledge, tact, and capacity in his profession and occupation, and became greatly endeared to us during our association together, and when leaving, carried with him our best wishes for his success in life—

Resolved, That we will put upon our records a token of our respect and esteem for him, and a recognition of his faithful and useful services for this institution and for its inmates while under his charge; and our grateful appreciation thereof.

Resolved, That we regret and are pained by his early death in the midst of a promising and brilliant career for many years to come.

Resolved, That we join with his friends in full appreciation of his merits, and transmit to his mother and sister, the surviving members of his family, our words of condolence on account of their great bereavement, and that a copy of these resolutions from our records, be transmitted to them.

SOLON BANCROFT, *Secretary*,

SAMUEL W. HOPKINSON, *Chairman*.

The New England Psychological Society having learned the painful news of the death of a highly valued and beloved member, Dr. Wm. B. Goldsmith superintendent of the Butler Asylum at Providence, R. I., recalls with a deep sense of its great loss, his high character, exceptional ability, and refined and genuine nature:

Resolved, That such has been the influence of his opinions, based upon his solid attainments and great devotion to his work, that broader views of the treatment of the insane, and deeper insight into mental disease, have come to many of us, his fellow-workers.

Resolved, That by his death is lost a tried and considerate friend, a judicious and helpful counsellor, and a courteous and cultivated associate.

Resolved, That the secretary be requested to communicate these resolutions to the family of our deceased friend, and to extend to them our profound sympathy in their sorrow.

H. R. STEDMAN, M. D.,

THEO. W. FISHER, M. D.,

C. P. BANCROFT, M. D.,

WALTER CHANNING, M. D., *Secretary*.

Committee.

In publishing the above, together with an obituary notice by Dr. Wm. A. Gorton, the *American Journal of Insanity* for April, 1888, made the following editorial comment:

The New England Psychological Society, and the writer of the obituary on another page, have well expressed the sentiments of all whose privilege it was to know Dr. Goldsmith. The *American Journal of Insanity* loses in his death a valued contributor and

a staunch friend. The notes of a clinical case in this issue, sent to us by our late colleague for publication, within a few weeks of his death, possess a melancholy interest and furnish opportune confirmation of testimony that has been borne to his painstaking care and scientific zeal. No one will dispute our claim that Dr. Goldsmith stood *facile princeps* among the younger superintendents of asylums in all that pertained to the scientific side of American psychiatry. He was a constant foe to 'asylum routine, and while according due importance to purely administrative work, he neither suffered himself nor others to forget that before all else he was a physician.

At the meeting of the Boston Medico-Psychological Society held on the nineteenth of April, 1888, special reference was made to the death of Dr. W. B. Goldsmith, and a committee was appointed to prepare resolutions, to be reported to the Society at a subsequent meeting.

This committee reported as follows :

The Boston Medico-Psychological Society, deeply impressed with the loss that it has sustained by the death of its beloved member, Dr. William B. Goldsmith, superintendent of the Butler Hospital, at Providence, R. I., wishes to place on record its testimony to his exalted character, his great ability as a physician and a superintendent, and his genial and generous nature as an associate.

Dying at the early age of thirty-four, when it seemed that a long life of usefulness had only just begun, he had already accomplished, by his great attainments and faithful, conscientious work, that of which older men might well be proud, and had made his influence felt, not only in the hospital but also in the community, in wider knowledge of mental disease, and more intelligent and liberal treatment of the insane.

Resolved, That by his death this Society has lost one of its most distinguished members, a valued contributor, and each of us a tried and cordial friend.

Resolved, That the secretary of this society, in communicating to the family of Dr. Goldsmith this expression of its esteem, and its sorrow at his death, be requested to extend to them our heartfelt sympathy in their grief.

GEORGE F. JELLY,
WALKER CHANNING,
PHILIP COOMBS KNAPP.

The members of the Providence Medical Association received with pain and a sense of great personal loss the announcement on the 21st of March of the sudden death of their late associate, William B. Goldsmith, M. D., superintendent of the Butler Hospital. His almost constant presence at our monthly meetings evinced his great interest in general medicine, as well as in his own specialty, in which he had the reputation of doing as good, if not better, work, than any one in this country. To use the words of an eminent alienist, "No one could look forward more confidently to the first position in his specialty in this country."

Beneath his reserved manner was a heart full of kindness and thoughtfulness for others.

In his death the Association has lost a member of solid attainments, exceptional ability, thorough honesty, and a gentleman in the best sense of the word.

Resolved, The secretary be requested to enter the above upon the records of the society, and to communicate the foregoing to the mother and sister of our deceased associate, and to express to them our heartfelt sympathy in their great sorrow.

J. W. C. ELY,

HORACE G. MILLER,

E. L. WALKER,

Committee.

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